(SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The transmission and distribution (T & D) losses including theft of electricity in the country have been ranging between 21% to 23%. This high incidence of T&D losses is one of the factors contributing to heavy losses being incurred by various State Electrcity Boards|Electricity Departments (SEBs/EDs). In order to reduce the T&D losses including theft of energy, various technical and administartive measures have been taken. These include:—

(i) conuducting energy audit by SEBs|EDs to identify system elements responsible for excessive losses;

(ii) formulation of system improvement schemes for strengthening T&D system both in rural and urban areas;

(iii) installation of capacitors, introduction of energy audit in the power systems of SEBs|EDs;

(iv) theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence; and

(v) introduction of an incentive scheme for reducing T&D losses.

Effective implementation of these measures by the SEBs|EDs would help in reducing the losses during the current plan period.

Koel Karo Hydro-Electrical, Project

*178. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Koel Karo Hydro-Electric Project has been cleared by Government as a Central Project in Bihar;

(b) if so, what is its cost as also the date of its commencement and completion;

(c) which agency would be entrusted with its construction and whether any Indian or foreign firm is also involved in it; and

(d) if so, what are the terms and conditions decided upon for involvement of such a firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) The Koel Karo Hydro-electric Project has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1338.81 crores at March, 1991 price level. The Project will be completed in 8 years from November, 1991 i.e. by November, 1999. The Koel Karo H.E. Project is being executed in the Central Sector by the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation. Since it is being executed indigenously, no foreign firm is involved in its construction.

Trafficking in Chemical Drugs

*179. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the Indian Express of the 5th November, 1991 captioned 'Trafficking of Chemical drugs on the rise'; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to check the menace which also generates black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item refers to Methadon as synonymous with Methaqualone and Mandrax. This is not so. While Methaqualone in combination with an anti-histamine is marketed as Mandrax, Methadon is totally different in composition and effect. Further, smuggling of Methadon has not been noticed so far. As far as Methaqualone is concerned, the enforcement agencies of the Central and State Governments have launched a multi-pronged attack to prevent the smuggling of this chemical drug. As would be seen